

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 12, 13, 25 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Please amend Claims 2 to 4, 9, 10 and 14, and add new Claims 29 to 33 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[1]] 29, further comprising the step of ~~wherein said activating step (b) comprises (b)(i) estimating a time when use of the output device the user input will terminate, and setting the second time to the estimated time~~ ~~said rescheduling step (c) comprises (c)(i) rescheduling items of information in accordance with the values of the priorities at the estimated time.~~
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein, if the output device user is still being used ~~interacting~~ at the end of the estimated time, said method repeats said ~~estimating step (b)(i) and said rescheduling step (d) (c)(i)~~ for a further estimated time.
4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[1]] 29, wherein one or more of the priorities are dependent upon one or more parameters as a function of time.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a location or a distance from a given location.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a frequency that the associated item of information is displayed.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a time since the associated item of information was last displayed.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a number of times the associated item of information has been displayed.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon ~~[[on]]~~ a cost of the associated item of information.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 30, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring the user interaction with the output device ~~input~~; and
generating a user profile based upon the monitoring.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon the user profile.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying items of information on a display apparatus comprising a display unit and ~~an~~ a user interface, each item of information having an associated priority which is a function of time, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) scheduling items of information in accordance with values of the priorities;
- (b) generating a user interrupt in response to a user interacting with the user interface;
- (c) clearing the scheduled items of information in response to the user interrupt;
- (d) estimating a time when the user will finish interacting with the user interface;
- (e) rescheduling items of information in accordance with the values of the priorities at the estimated time;
- (f) repeating steps (d) to (e), if the user is still interacting with the user interface at the estimated time; and

(g) displaying the scheduled information according to priority, if the user is not interacting with the user interface at the estimated time.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein one or more of the priorities are dependent upon one or more parameters as a function of time.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a location or a distance from a given location.

17. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a frequency that the associated item of information is displayed.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a time since the associated item of information was last displayed.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon a number of times the associated item of information has been displayed.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 15, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon on a cost of the associated item of information.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said method further comprises:

monitoring the user interaction with the user interface; and
generating a user profile based upon the monitoring.

22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein one of the priorities is dependent upon the user profile.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said scheduling step (a) comprises:

(a)(i) determining a maximum priority of all of the priorities of the items of information at a next available time for display;

(a)(ii) scheduling the item of information associated with the determined maximum priority as an item of information to be displayed at the next available time; and

(a)(iii) repeating steps (a)(i) and (a)(ii) for the next available time.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said rescheduling step (e) comprises:

(e)(i) determining a maximum priority of all of the priorities of the items of information at a next available time for display;

(e)(ii) rescheduling the item of information associated with the determined maximum priority as an item of information to be displayed at the next available time; and

(e)(iii) repeating steps (e)(i) and (e)(ii) for the next available time.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus that displays items of information on a display apparatus, the display apparatus comprising a display unit and a user interface, each item of information having an associated priority which is a function of time, said apparatus comprising:

scheduler means for scheduling items of information in accordance with values of the priorities;

generator means for generating a user interrupt in response to a user interacting with the user interface;

clearance means for clearing the scheduled items of information in response to the user interrupt;

estimation means for estimating a time when the user will finish interacting with the user interface;

rescheduler means for scheduling items of information in accordance with the values of the priorities at the estimated time;

repetition means for repeating the operations of the estimation means and the rescheduler means, if the user is still interacting with the user interface at the estimated time; and

display means for displaying the scheduled information according to priority, if the user is not interacting with the user interface at the estimated time.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium storing a computer program for displaying items of information on a display apparatus, the display apparatus comprising a display unit and a user interface, each item of information having an associated priority which is a function of time, the computer program comprising:

scheduler code for scheduling items of information in accordance with values of the priorities;

generator code for generating a user interrupt in response to a user interacting with the user interface;

clearance code for clearing the scheduled items of information in response to the user interrupt;

estimation code for estimating a time when the user will finish interacting with the user interface;

rescheduler code for rescheduling items of information in accordance with the values of the priorities at the estimated time;

repetition code for repeating the operations of the estimation code and the rescheduler code, if the user is still interacting with the user interface at the estimated time;
and

display code for displaying the scheduled information according to priority, if the user is not interacting with the user interface at the estimated time.

29. (New) A method of scheduling times of information for presentation on an output device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) calculating a priority for each item of information at a first time;
- (b) placing one or more of the items into a schedule in accordance with the calculated priorities, wherein an item having a maximum calculated priority is placed at a first available slot in the schedule;
- (c) checking whether the output device is being used; and
- (d) rescheduling the schedule if said checking step indicates that the output device is being used, said rescheduling comprising:
 - (d)(i) clearing the schedule;
 - (d)(ii) calculating a further priority for each item of information at a second time at which the output device is not being used; and
 - (d)(iii) placing one or more of the items into the schedule in accordance with the further priorities, wherein an item having a maximum further priority is placed at the first available slot in the schedule.

30. (New) A method as claimed in claim 29 further comprising the steps of:

determining whether a user is interacting with the output device; and

activating a user interrupt if user interaction is determined, and wherein said checking step (c) comprises checking whether the user interrupt is activated.

31. (New) A method as claimed in claim 30 wherein said determining step comprises detecting keystrokes.

32. (New) An apparatus for scheduling items of information for presentation on an output device, said apparatus comprising:

- means for calculating a priority for each item of information at a first time;
- means for placing one or more of the items into a schedule in accordance with the calculated priorities, wherein an item having a maximum calculated priority is placed at a first available slot in the schedule;
- means for checking whether the output device is being used;
- means for presenting items for display on the output device in accordance with the schedule if the output device is not being used; and
- means for rescheduling the schedule if the output device is being used, said rescheduling means comprising:
 - means for clearing the schedule;
 - means for calculating a further priority for each item of information at a second time at which the output device is not being used; and
 - means for placing one or more of the items into the schedule in accordance with the further priorities, wherein an item having a maximum further priority is placed at the first available slot in the schedule.

33. (New) A computer program product comprising a machine-readable program code recorded on a machine-readable recording medium, for controlling the operation of a data processing apparatus on which the program code executes to perform a method of scheduling items of information for presentation on an output device, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) calculating a priority for each item of information at a first time;
- (b) placing one or more of the items into a schedule in accordance with the calculated priorities, wherein an item having a maximum calculated priority is placed at a first available slot in the schedule;
- (c) checking whether the output device is being used; and
- (d) rescheduling the schedule if said checking step indicates that the output device is being used, said rescheduling comprising:
 - (d)(i) clearing the schedule;
 - (d)(ii) calculating a further priority for each item of information at a second time at which the output device is not being used; and
 - (d)(iii) placing one or more of the items into the schedule in accordance with the further priorities, wherein an item having a maximum further priority is placed at the first available slot in the schedule.